Thursday, February 9, 1978

BASSEY EKPO BASSEY

THE last week was a

matic activity for Foreign

Minister, Brigadier Joe

Garba. Intense and frus-

On the Security Coun-

cil chair as moderator, he

had expected the Zim-

babwe question to be

brought before him, but

instead, America (with

seriously campaigned for

Nigeria's membership in

the security council, de-

cided to take the matter

West (whose position on

which had

Brigadier

Garba had expected the its foreign policy, should

Southern Africa he has a special association with

trating.

Britain).

to Malta.

Again,

10

03

period of intense diplo- diplomatic life defend-

silence.

THE NIGERIAN CHRONICLE

the vanguard of a pub-

lic relations team whose

commitment to sell the

putative new image of

the United States to the

rest of Africa was never

in doubt. Nigeria, he in-

sisted, had no right to

continue quarelling with

the United States now

progressive

13

## **Bassey Ekpo Bassey**

ed the Federal Government's view of the West. Brigadier Garba had a harsh word. He could not see why the government's position should generate "the most illinformed opinion from so-called Nigerian radi-

But last week, the Foreign Minister borrowed the analysis of the ill-informed radicals to renounce the same Western policy he had defended against the onslaught of the radicals. "The strategy," he said, "is

"FOR those who opposed the Federal Govern ment's view of the West, Brigadier Garba has a h word. He could not see why the government's positi should generate "the most ill-informed opinion fre so-called Nigerian radicals."

READ THE

NIGERIAN

AND

SUNDAY

CHRONICLE

Concessions to the Africa also followed the whole of Southern had closed its consulate

ed it as evidence that West German policy towards South Africa was changing. He said the country's view on the crisis was becoming identical with that of the Nigerian Government, and on a generous impulse, invited more German firms to invest in Nigeria ! For those who opposindeed easy to comprehend. Western objectives in Zimbabwe, as in Africa, have never changed. What has emerged is a switch in the strategy designed to achieve the same objectives and preserve the same interests".

It was the anger of a man who had persistently been told how powerful his country was, on account of which he (on behalf of his powerful country) was voted into the Security Council - only to discover that the voters had chosen new arenas outside the Security Council to discuss African affairs.

cals." first (and only) party to the Zimbabwe dispute to accept, in toto, the Anglo-American peace

pact for the colony. A later. Nigeria

started backsliding on its support of the Patriotic Front.

that the Carter Administration had taken up the West for its imagingary black case in Africa. "We should" he said in a new posture on Southern television ' programme, "be friends". other courses. For instance, in September last What followed was a nightmarish revision of a year, when news came that Western Germany foreign policy.In the first half of

little

in Windhoeck, Namibia, Brigadier Garba heraldlast year, Nigeria put itplaced himself firmly in self on the map as the

## New World The Issue Of A

gap in the levels of eco- best to evade a just solunomic development be- tion to this question of tween the developed Western and the young states is increasingly widening (it has grown 15-fold by now), attempts by the latter to remedy their critical situation through restructuring international economic relations meet with active resistance, as is indicated, specialy, by the course of discussions on this issue both in the United Nations and in other international nora.

In the struggle for their economic rights, the developing countries demand a change in the character of trade and economic relations and note with anxiety their own fast growing indebtedness to the West, which has now exceeded 250.000 million dollars.

An important role in solving this problem was assigned to the international conference on economic cooperation in Paris, known as the to them. North South dialogue." with similar preceeding however, refuse to consi-

AT a time when the however, they tried their vital importance for the developing countries. Consequently, the negotiations that had lasted for nearly a year and a half failed to produce any results.

The group of 19, speaking on behalf of all the Third World countries, submitted to the conference specific proposals on the mining and marketing of raw materials, the establishment of a fair balance between the prices of raw materials and finished products,

The non-equivalent they are making from exchange of goods has become in practice the West's main instrument of plundering the Third World. Of the 200 000 million dollars end price of all the raw materials (with the exception of oil) exported from the developing countries only 30,000 million dollars find their way back

The Western private Just as the case had been and state companies, stint promises. Actually, materials, the develop- tions. It comprises '17' lity and mutual'benefit.

## Economic Order

ing countries' basic export item. At the same time, they keep on increasing the cost of their own exported manufactures and technology.

Iran. Iran that makes no

secret of its epic love

affair with South Africa.

issues, Brigadier Garba

responded with a raging

fury and righteous indig-

nation. Righteous, be-

cause the Carter govern-

ment in America had

used the black colour of

its U.N. Ambassador.

Andrew Young to sell

the story to Nigeria that

the U.S. was capable,

and indeed prepared to

pursue a new policy in

Southern Africa. Briga-

dier Garba had been so

persuaded about the sin-

cerity of this offer that he

To the first set of

It is natural that the Western powers do not want to forego the profits

## by **OLU IYANDA**

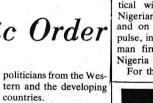
such unequal trade. Therefore, they do their best to protract the discussion with a view to gaining time and freezing the process of restructuring economic relations in the world on a just and democratic basis.

In order to break the deadlock reached in the negotiations, an International North-South commission was set up late last year, which is to study the matter as an conterences, the West- der the question of rais- advisory body and to a new economic order ern countries did, not ing the prices of raw issue its recommenda- based on genuine equa-

But one can hardly expect much from the commission's work. This has also been admitted by Willy Brandt, who is Chairman of the commission. This is so, because it cannot act in place of governments and its resolutions are no more than recommendations. The developing countries have already started expressing apprehensions that this body with the participation of representatives of Western industrially developed states might also be used for further pro-

tracting the dialogue.

Nevertheless, the Third World countries are fully determined to go ahead with the struggle for restructuring inequitable international relations and establishing a new economic order



**Brigadier Garba's Discovery** 

spent a good part of his

ing) to join forces with

him in condemning the

internal settlement effort

of Ian Smith in Zim-

babwe, but instead, the

West chose an option of

airport-newsmen add-

ed to the irritation when

they demanded an expla-

nation from the minister

for why his government,

committed to the total

liberation of Southern

Africa, and with Africa

as the centre - piece of

permit itself the luxury of

And back in Lagos,

**Unpopular Essays**